

EPA Climate Change and Water News

October 30, 2013

The *EPA Climate Change and Water News* is a bi-weekly newsletter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water that features news and information about EPA and other federal agencies related to climate change and water. Partner activities, as well as related events and publications, are also included.

For more information on climate change and water, please visit our website:
<http://www.epa.gov/water/climatechange>.

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U.S. EPA News

EPA's Climate Ready Estuaries Program Releases Draft Workbook on Developing Climate Change Adaptation Plans and Seeks Public Comment

EPA has released a draft workbook for environmental professionals and city managers to help identify and manage risks associated with climate change, and is seeking comments from the public on the draft. The document, "Being Prepared for Climate Change: A Workbook for Developing Risk-Based Adaptation Plans," provides a systematic process for environmental professionals and city managers for determining important climate risks that should be addressed, along with approaches for building local capacity to understand and manage these risks to protect future generations. The workbook was produced by EPA's Climate Ready Estuaries program, which works with 28 National Estuary Programs and the coastal

management community to assess climate change vulnerabilities, develop and implement adaptation strategies, and engage and educate stakeholders. To review the draft workbook, visit: <http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/cre/news.cfm>. Written comments must be received by November 22, 2013 and should be directed to crehelp@epa.gov.

EPA's WaterSense Program Releases Draft Professional Certification Program Labeling System and Seeks Public Comment

EPA's WaterSense program has released a Draft WaterSense Professional Certification Program Labeling System and three draft revised specifications for professional certification programs for public comment. EPA established specifications in 2006 to recognize certification programs for irrigation professionals in three areas: system design, installation and maintenance, and system auditing. In 2012, EPA released a Notice of Intent to revise its program to address challenges facing WaterSense as the program continues to grow. The draft documents create a consolidated set of requirements that complement and streamline each WaterSense program specification and provide a more sustainable framework for program growth. The changes will also expand the benefits of WaterSense partnership to all professionals certified through WaterSense labeled programs and phase out the individual partnership designation. To learn more, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/partners/programspecs.html>. Written comments must be received by November 19, 2013 and should be directed to watersense-programs@erg.com.

EPA's WaterSense Program Recognizes 2013 Partners of the Year for Water Efficiency Efforts

WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by EPA, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products, new homes, and services. Each year, WaterSense recognizes an elite group of partners in several categories as its Partners of the Year and Excellence Award winners. The winners of the 2013 Partner of the Year Award are: Promotional Partner of the Year, Athens-Clarke County (Georgia) Public Utilities Department; Large Manufacturer Partner of the Year, Delta Faucet Company; Small Manufacturer Partner of the Year, Niagara Conservation Corp; Retailer Partner of the Year, The Home Depot; Builder Partner of the Year, KB Home; Professional Certifying Organization Partner of Year, The Irrigation Association; and Irrigation Partner of Year, John Taylor. In addition, WaterSense presented Excellence Awards to six organizations. This year, WaterSense also recognizes partners who have received repeated recognition from WaterSense with its first ever Sustained Excellence Awards, which were awarded to Kholer Co. and Lowes, Inc. To learn more, visit: http://www.epa.gov/watersense/partners/watersense_awards.html.

EPA Awards Technical Assistance to Communities to Support Green Infrastructure Use

The EPA is providing \$400,000 in technical assistance to six communities to help expand their use of green infrastructure. The new technical assistance continues the Agency's support for communities using green infrastructure to reduce water pollution while increasing economic activity and neighborhood revitalization, job creation, energy savings, and open space. The six new communities receiving assistance include: Providence, RI; Detroit, MI; Lincoln, NE; Gary, IN; Pima County, AZ; and Spartanburg, SC. In the last two years, EPA has provided \$1.35 million in technical assistance for green infrastructure to more than 20 communities. To share lessons learned from green infrastructure projects, EPA is also releasing a series of reports highlighting the work of communities that received technical assistance from EPA in 2012, including Denver, Los Angeles, Phoenix, and Portland. To learn more, visit: http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/gi_support.cfm#Technical Assistance.

Other Federal Agency News

Department of the Interior Launches Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program of \$100 Million

Marking the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, the Department of the Interior has launched a \$100 million Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program. The program will use competitive grants to award funding for science-based solutions by states, local communities, non-profit organizations and other partners to help restore key habitats and bolster natural systems, enabling these areas to withstand the impacts and better protect local communities from future storms. Program implementation will be coordinated by several Department of the Interior bureaus including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In addition, the Department of the Interior has awarded \$162 million in funding to 45 restoration and research [projects](#) to restore wetlands and beaches, rebuild shorelines, and research the impacts and modeling mitigation of storm surges. The investments are consistent with President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force [Strategy Report](#) and the Administration's [Climate Action Plan](#) to build resilience by restoring natural features along shorelines to help better protect communities from future storms. For more information on the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program, visit: <http://www.nfwf.org/hurricanesandy/Pages/home.aspx>.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Announces Climate Adaptation Grant Funding for Tribes

President Obama's 2013 Climate Action Plan commits federal support to Tribes as they address climate change impacts. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has up to \$600,000 available in fiscal year 2013/2014 for competitive grants for tribal adaptation, training, and support for tribal travel to participate in technical training, workshops, forums and cooperatives. Funding is available to federally recognized Tribes and inter-tribal organizations. Grants will be considered for funding in three categories. Category 1 relates to designing and hosting trainings for tribal adaptation planning. Category 2 funding is designated for applications that demonstrate the development of tribal government climate adaptation plans, vulnerability assessments, or data analysis that supports multiple tribes. Category 3 funding is for tribal travel grants, which may include travel support to attend technical workshops or to participate in cooperative climate change adaptation efforts. The deadline for applications is November 29, 2013. To learn more, visit: http://www4.nau.edu/tribalclimatechange/resources/docs/res_BIA2013_OTSClimateAdpationGrantOffering.pdf.

National Park Service Announces Survey of Visitor Perceptions of Climate Change in U.S. National Parks

Our national parks are public spaces that serve many purposes including the provision of recreational opportunities and the protection of our nation's natural and cultural resources. In order to continue to preserve scenery, natural landscapes, and historic objects, it is important for National Park Service (NPS) staff and visitors to understand the various benefits of and challenges to NPS units. Furthermore, it is also important to discuss what can be done within and outside of the parks to preserve these benefits for future generations. Per the NPS Climate Change Action Plan, the NPS is seeking to promote resource stewardship and public understanding of how climate change will impact the National Parks. Data on how to best meet these objectives is needed to ensure that public outreach and communication materials are well received and effective. The results of this survey will give staff recommendations and tools to effectively communicate climate related impacts in the parks as well as ways in which the NPS can take action to address these impacts. Comments must be received by November 22, 2013. To learn more, visit: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-23/html/2013-23061.htm>.

NASA Data from Climate Models Shows Potential 21st Century Temperature, Precipitation Changes

New data visualizations from the NASA Center for Climate Simulation and NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio at Goddard Space Flight Center show how climate models used in the new report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimate possible temperature and precipitation pattern changes throughout the 21st century. When developing the IPCC's Physical Science Basis and Summary for Policymakers reports, scientists referenced an international climate modeling effort to study how the Earth might respond to four different scenarios of carbon dioxide and other

greenhouse gas emissions throughout the 21st century. The Summary for Policymakers, the first official piece of the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report, was released on Friday, Sept. 27, 2013. This modeling effort includes dozens of climate models from institutions around the world, including NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies. To learn more, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/climate-models-show-potential-21st-century-temperature-precipitation-changes/#.UkXO5dLkvtc>. To view the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report - Summary for Policymakers, visit: <http://www.climatechange2013.org/>.

NOAA Hosts Monthly Webinar Series on Climate Information for Managing Risks in Water Resources

The Sectoral Applications Research Program in NOAA's Climate Program Office addresses the climate information needs of stakeholders within key socioeconomic sectors. Working with collaborators such as the U.S. National Integrated Drought Information System, Water Research Foundation, Water Environment Federation, Water Environment Research Foundation, and American Water Works Association, SARP is hosting a series of webinars the third Thursday of every month. For a listing of webinars, visit:

<http://cpo.noaa.gov/ClimatePrograms/ClimateandSocietalInteractions/SARPPProgram/WebinarsandWorkshops.aspx>.

Technical Report Summarizes Climate Change Impacts on U.S. Oceans, Marine Resources

According to a technical report prepared for the 2013 National Climate Assessment, the nation's valuable ocean ecosystems and marine resources are already being affected by a changing climate. These impacts are expected to increase in the coming years, putting marine resources, and the people and economies that depend on them, at high risk in a changing world. Experts from NOAA and other federal, academic, and nongovernmental organizations collaborated on "Oceans and Marine Resources in a Changing Climate" – a comprehensive look at our current understanding of the effects of climate change on the oceans and marine ecosystems under U.S. jurisdiction. It reviews how climate variability is affecting the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of ocean ecosystems, and how these changes are already having societal impacts by affecting fisheries and other valuable ocean products and services. The report synthesizes information on projected climate-driven changes in U.S. ocean ecosystems over the next 25 to 100 years and concludes that marine ecosystems likely will continue to be affected, in most cases negatively, by anthropogenic-driven climate change and rising levels of atmospheric CO₂. To view the report, visit:

http://downloads.usgcrp.gov/NCA/technicalinputreports/Griffis_Howard_Ocean_Marine_Resources.pdf.